

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #68-11 Building Date: 1920
Building Name: North Brentwood A.M.E. Zion Church
Location: 4037 Webster Street, North Brentwood, Maryland
Private/Religious/Occupied/Excellent/Accessible

Description

The Brentwood African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is a large one-and-one-half-story building, constructed of brick painted white, with its gable front facing north. Set into the northeast corner of the building is a two-story square entry-tower, with entrance in its north face through double doors approached by a wide set of steps. A double row of header bricks forms the ogee-arch surround of the double doors. Above the doors are three lancet windows, highlighted by string courses of projecting brick. The tower is topped by a pyramidal roof. In the north gable end is an off-center stained-glass window, consisting of two 1/1 windows filled with opaque stained glass and surmounted by a tripartite gothic-arched transom light. The main block of the church is three bays long, each bay filled with two stained glass windows. Separating the bays are projecting brick buttresses. The building rests on a high parged brick foundation, and all of the brick is painted white. The roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle, and has a deep overhang at the eaves.

Significance

The Brentwood African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is a handsome brick church structure which is a focal point in the black community of North Brentwood. It is a good example of a modest but substantial church, with simple Gothic Revival elements, in an urban setting. Brentwood was developed as a suburb at the turn of this century, and the black community in its northern section soon came to be known as North Brentwood. The church was organized in 1913, and a frame church was built within a few blocks of the site of the present church. In March 1920, the present lot was purchased by the trustees of the church, and construction of the church was begun that summer. The five trustees, together with Reverend Chesterfield Jackson, took out incorporation papers as the "African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Brentwood, Maryland" in August 1921. The church has served the local community for over 60 years, and has an active congregation. It is noticeable landmark in one of the older black suburbs of the District of Columbia.

Acreage: 14,580 square feet

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Brentwood African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

and/or common North Brentwood A.M.E. Zion Church

2. Location

street & number 4037 Webster Street ___ not for publication

city, town North Brentwood ___ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Brentwood A.M.E. Zion Church

street & number 4037 Webster Street telephone no.:

city, town North Brentwood state and zip code Md. 20722

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 3740

street & number Main Street folio 459

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ___ federal ___ state ☒ county ___ local

depository for survey records History Division MNCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Md.

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #68-11

Condition
☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one
☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one
☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Brentwood African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is a front-gabled building with corner entry tower which is located on a lot in the subdivision of North Brentwood (Holladay's Addition to Highland). It is a large (30 feet by 50 feet) one-and-one-half-story building, constructed of brick painted white, with its gable front facing north. Set into the northeast corner of the building is a two-story square entry-tower, with entrance in its north face through double doors approached by a wide set of steps. A double row of header bricks forms the ogee-arch surround of the double doors. Above the doors are three lancet windows, the central being the tallest, set off and highlighted by three wide (lower) string courses of projecting brick, and one slim (upper) double string course. The lancet windows are louvered, and painted brown. The tower is topped by a pyramidal roof.

In the north (principal) gable end is an off-center stained-glass window, consisting of two side-by-side 1/1 double sash windows filled with opaque stained glass and surmounted by a tripartite gothic-arched transom light. Under this window is a below-grade basement entrance. The main block (nave) of the church is three bays long, each bay filled with two stained glass double hung sash windows; each upper sash has seven segments of gothic-arched tracery. In each bay at basement level is a wide segmental-arched window. Separating the bays are projecting brick buttresses.

The building rests on a high parged brick foundation, and all of the brick is painted white. The roof is covered with gray asphalt shingle, and has a deep overhang at the eaves: the wainscoting under the eaves is painted brown, as are the window surrounds and other trim. There is an exterior stove chimney at the rear (south) gable end, west of the ridge.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #68-11

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				local history

Specific dates 1920 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Brentwood African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is a handsome brick church structure which stands as a focal point in the black community of North Brentwood. It is a good example of a modest but substantial church, with simple Gothic Revival elements, in an urban setting.

Brentwood was developed at the turn of this century as a suburb of Washington, easily accessible by the new electric street car line along Rhode Island Avenue. Brentwood's northern section, bordering along the Northwest Branch, was developed by the Holladay Land Company, as an all-black suburb; this black community was known as Randall's Town, after Henry Randall, a local black landowner. By 1930, Randall's Town had split apart from Brentwood, and came to be known as North Brentwood.¹

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was organized in this area in 1913, and a frame church was built within a few blocks of the site of the present church.² In March 1920, the present lot, #17 in Block 22, was purchased by the trustees of the church, W.H. Thomas, Joseph Herbert, Harrison Johnson, Robert Johnson and Edgar Johnson.³ The construction of the church was begun that summer: the cornerstone reads "Organized May 1913. Built by Rev. Chesterfield Jackson, July 18, 1920." The five trustees, together with Reverend Chesterfield Jackson, took out incorporation papers as the "African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Brentwood, Maryland" in August 1921.⁴

The church has continued to serve the local community for over 60 years, and has an active congregation. It is noticeable landmark in one of the older black suburbs of the District of Columbia.

Survey No. P.G. #68-11

Cf. Notes, Item #8

Acreage of nominated property 14,580 sq. ft. Tax Map #50 7469
 Quadrangle name Washington East, (E) Lot #17, block 22 Quadrangle scale _____
 UTM References do NOT complete UTM references
 A

 Zone Easting Northing
 B

 Zone Easting Northing
 C

 D

 E

 F

 G

 H

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

name/title	Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian		
organization	Historic Preservation Commission	date	August 1985
street & number	c/o County Planning, MNCPPC	telephone	952-3521
city or town	Upper Marlboro	state	Md.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

#8. Continued

Notes:

- 1 The Neighborhoods of Prince George's County, 1974, pp. 16-19.
- 2 Works Progress Administration Church Records, 1936, Maryland Hall of Records.
- 3 Prince George's County Land Records #152:337.
- 4 Prince George's County Incorporation Records JBB#1:506.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

16 2011
2.4
1700714708

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
Brentwood A.M.E. Zion Church			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
4037 Webster Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Brentwood			
STATE:		COUNTY:	
Maryland		Prince George's	
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments			
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME:			
Brentwood A.M.E. Zion Church			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
4037 Webster Street			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	
Brentwood		Maryland	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
Prince George's County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	
Upper Marlboro		Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):			
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
None			
DATE OF SURVEY:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div>(Check One)</div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed </div>
	<div>(Check One)</div> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered </div>
<div>(Check One)</div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div>	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The building is an early 20th century church structure with a porch tower on the northeast corner. There are three pointed arch windows in the tower. There is a pointed arched window in the end of the nave and the three tudor arched windows along each side. The entrance is tudor-arched. The porch has a square hipped roof.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) C. 1920

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC	DATE: 3/2/73
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

• National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Chain of Title

Brentwood A.M.E. Zion Church
P.G. #68-11

#3740:459
19 June 1969
Deed

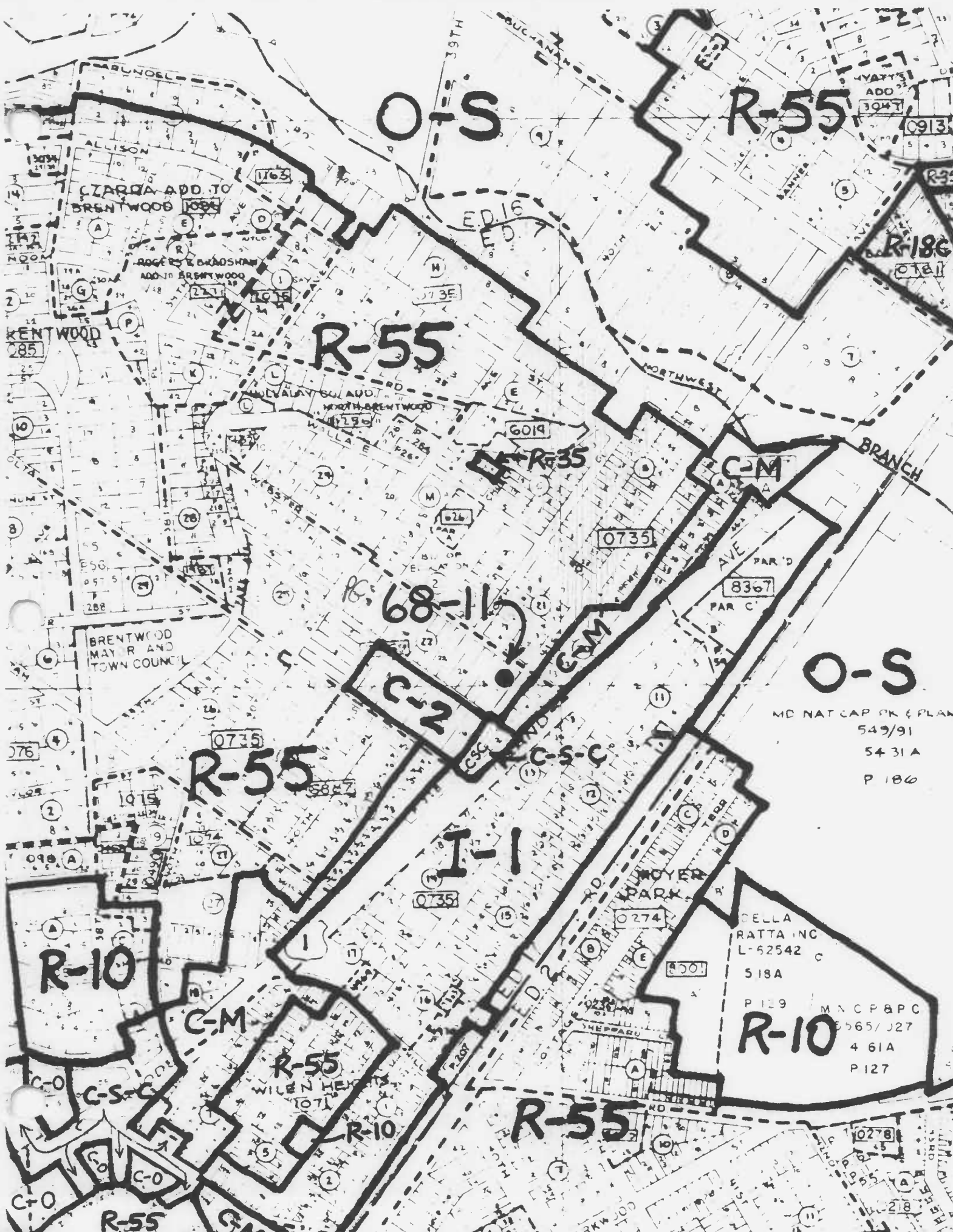
James C. Thomas, George Smith, Sr., and Clara Carter, surviving trustees of the A.M.E. Zion Church, to James C. Thomas, George Smith, Sr., Clara Carter, Florence Hebron, Richard Butler, Kenneth Dairs, Geneva Butler and James Toler, trustees of A.M.E. Zion Church, lot 17 in block 22 in subdivision of Halladay's Addition to Highland, which grantors acquired by #2297:441.

#2297:441
24 Feb 1959
Deed

William H. Thomas, surviving trustee of A.M.E. Zion Church of Brentwood, to James C. Thomas, Herman Hibson, George Smith, Sr., Clara Carter, and William H. Thomas, trustees of A.M.E. Zion Church, same property which grantors acquired by #152:337.

#152:337
3 Mar 1920
Deed

Isaac D. Arnold to William H. Thomas, Harrison Johnson, Josept Herbert, Robert Johnson, and Edgar Johnson, trustees of A.M.E. Zion Church of Brentwood, lot 17 in Block 22 of resubdivision of the Holladay Addition to Highland.



O-S

R-55

R-55

O-S

R-55

R-10

R-10

R-55

MD NAT CAP PK & PLAN
549/91
54 31 A
P 186

DELLA
RATTA INC
L-62542 C
518A

P 129 MNC P&PC
5565/J27
4 61A
P 127

68-11

I-1

C-2

C-M

C-M

R-55

R-10

R-55

C-M

C-M

C-M

C-M

C-M

C-M



P.G.#68-11

North Brentwood A.M.E. Zion Church

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

June 1985

Northwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G. #68-11

North Brentwood A.M.E.Z. Church
Prince George's County, MD.

Susan G. Pearl

June 1985

Northeast 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



NAME N. BRENTWOOD CHURCH (A.M.E. ZION CHURCH) PG:68-11
LOCATION N. BRENTWOOD, Md ~~W. A. A. B. L.~~ 4037 Webster St.
EACADE NW
PHOTO TAKEN 3/2/73 MDWYER